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This now seems almost a picture of Arcadian life, so many changes have come around with the revolving century.

Dr. Burnet is still represented in New Jersey and other States by a large number of descendants, who venerate his memory, and have a just pride in his upright character and patriotic services. Among these, besides those of his own name, are the Kents, of New York; the Hornblowers, the Penningtons, the Kinneys, of New Jersey; the Groesbecks, the Wrights, and the Perrys, of Cincinnati.

An honorable name is the richest legacy a man can leave to his descendants. Such a legacy was bequeathed by WILLIAM BURNET.

ARTHUR MIDDLETON.

BY SAMUEL ADAMS DRAKE.

(Centennial Collection.)

No more grateful task could employ an American pen than the rescue of every memorial that may, now, or hereafter, illustrate the lives of the founders of the Republic. It becomes the especial duty of the hour to wipe from history's tablet the accumulated dust of a century, and to re-cut there, in bolder relief, the story of their matchless heroism and devotion. As we perform this duty, as we cherish and protect their visible monuments, the future will judge our worthiness to possess the priceless inheritance of liberty, confided to our care as a sacred trust, won with such infinite toil and sacrifice.

The signers of our great Magna Charta, were no privileged class, though they proved strong enough to wrest far more than their ancient franchises from the throne. There was not a titled name among them. They were merchants, mechanics, lawyers, planters, clergymen or physicians, from every walk of life, essential constituents of the body politic, thoroughly identified with every phase of popular thought or

feeling, and as completely united in the great work to which they pledged life, fortune, and honor. To no one of this illustrious assemblage did the pledge have higher meaning than to Arthur Middleton, of South Carolina.

He was born at the family seat on Ashley River, in 1743. His great-grandfather, Edward Middleton, emigrated to South Carolina soon after its settlement. His grandfather, for whom he was named, and who was also of English birth, had put himself at the head of the revolutionary movement of 1719, which extinguished the vexatious rule of the proprietary government. His father, Henry Middleton,¹ was chosen by the first convention of the people, in 1774, a delegate to the Congress at Philadelphia. Arthur Middleton, the Signer, was, therefore, a patriot by tradition and by descent.

In accordance with an old custom which prevailed among the gentry of the Southern Colonies and which has survived to our own time, Arthur was sent to England to be educated. He was placed in a school at Hackney and later at Westminster: finally entering Cambridge at eighteen to graduate with honor in 1764. Upon quitting the halls of the University, Arthur travelled in England and on the continent, making a long stay in Rome, where his grave and thoughtful cast of mind found ample food for study and reflection among her eloquent memorials of antique greatness and splendor.

Returning in 1768 to his native country, Arthur was considered to have completed the preparation indispensable for one of the wealthy and even aristocratic class which derived all its traditions from that mother-land of which they still spoke with pride and affection as "home." Shortly after this event, Arthur Middleton married a daughter of Walter Izard. She accompanied him in a second visit to Europe, whence, in 1773, he recrossed the ocean to find the cloud of civil war brooding heavily above his native shores.

Putting aside every consideration which timidity or selfishness might suggest, Arthur Middleton unhesitatingly em-

¹ For sketch of Henry Middleton, see *PENNSYLVANIA MAGAZINE*, vol. iii. p. 179.

braced the cause of his countrymen. Two days before the battle of Lexington he became a member of a secret committee to take measures for placing the colony in a state of defence. By its timely action the public stores of arms and ammunition were secured to the use of the patriots. He was also chosen, in June, a member of the Council of Safety, which organized a military force, commissioned its officers, and performed other executive functions. Middleton also advocated the extreme measure of seizing the person of the newly-arrived royal governor, Lord Campbell, who while temporizing with the revolutionary party, had written home for the means of crushing it. In 1776 as a member of the Continental Congress, Arthur Middleton signed the Declaration of Independence.

He remained in Congress until the close of the year 1777. South Carolina had formed a new constitution and on a secret ballot for governor, Middleton was chosen. He declined, however, to act, from doubts of the legality of the instrument, which he shared in common with President Rutledge. In 1779, when South Carolina was invaded, Middleton joined the forces which Governor Rutledge was levying for her defence. His estate, from which Mrs. Middleton had fled, was left to the pillage of the enemy. By the capitulation of Charleston he became a prisoner of war; and after nearly a year's detention he was exchanged to be immediately re-elected to Congress, in which he served until November, 1782.

Arthur Middleton died on the first day of the new year, 1788, from disease caused by exposure in his country's service. He left a wife, who survived him until 1814, and eight children. He also left an untarnished name and a memory to be treasured by a great nation, so long as it has a history.